

# Harlem Residents & Brokers Find Common Ground At Vacant Property Tour Presented by HCCI

By Jennifer Cunningham

Central Harlem residents and real estate professionals came together to find solutions on how to boost business around the Bradhurst Avenue retail corridor.

The Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement partnered with the Bradhurst Merchant's Association for the first annual "HCCI Broker's Breakfast & Property Tour," where residents



The breakfast/ discussion.

voiced their concerns about the community's business needs, and brokers toured available commercial space in the neighborhood.

The event's aim was to attract businesses to the Bradhurst section of Harlem that was in line with what residents wanted, according to Malcolm Punter, CEO of the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement.

"This is a densely populated area, and most of the goods and services are procured outside of this immediate area," Punter told the Harlem News. "HCCI's goal was to open up a dialogue in terms of what each stakeholder wanted to do in terms of attracting businesses to the area."

Harlem's Bradhurst neighborhood runs from 144th Street north to 155th Street from the Harlem River to St. Nicholas Avenue, Punter said.

Following a Caribbean American breakfast of ackee and salt fish and grits and eggs - courtesy of local business "Patrick's Hot Pot

Under De Tree" - the roughly three dozen guests heard from residents about the types of shops and services they need.

ed to know how some vacant land could be turned into community outdoor space.

The attendees then took



Vacancies on Frederick Douglass Blvd.

Punter said residents asked for access to more high quality grocery stores and restaurants, along with electronic, clothing and other retail stores, Punter added that they also want

a tour of a few of the vacant commercial property sites around the neighborhood, stopping along properties along Frederick Douglass Blvd. and West 145th Street.



Vacancies on 145th Streets.

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